



# DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

## news release

Fish and Wildlife Service

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Megan Durham 202-208-4131

### U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE ANNOUNCES FINAL FRAMEWORKS FOR EARLY SEASON MIGRATORY BIRD HUNTING

The Interior Department's U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has issued final hunting regulations for early (opening before October 1) migratory bird seasons. The final regulations have only a single change from the initial proposal.

Under the proposed regulations, September goose hunting was not offered for some counties in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. However, based on information submitted during the public comment period, the September goose season will continue in those counties on an experimental basis for another year.

The final regulations apply to doves, woodcock, band-tailed pigeons, rails, snipe, common moorhens and purple gallinules, sandhill cranes, sea ducks, and special September wood duck and Canada goose seasons, as well as migratory bird hunting seasons in Alaska, Puerto Rico, Hawaii, and the Virgin Islands.

As proposed, the final regulations include:

- o Continued suspension of the September teal season;
- o Change in closing date for woodcock in central states from February 28 to January 31;

(over)

- o Closed season for Stellar's and spectacled eiders in Alaska;
- o Continuation of the 2-day special white-winged dove season in a portion of south Texas;
- o Modification of the aggregate bag limit in most of Texas to increase the limit of white-winged doves from 2 to 6;
- o Initiation of experimental early September Canada goose seasons in Indiana and Ohio.

Complete regulations were published in the August 21 Federal Register. Hunters should check state hunting regulations for specific local information on permits, bag limits, and open areas.